namely Jute and Cotton by increasing the productivity per acre though the implementation of Special Jute Development Programme and Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

Loss of Mandays due to Communal Violence

13. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of mandays lost due to the communal violence in the country during the last three years and so far in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): With a view to monitoring the industrial relations situation in the country, the Government collects information on loss of mandays due to strikes, lock-outs and lay-offs. The information on loss of mandays separately due to communal violence is however not maintained.

Package of benefits to Farmers

14. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal is under Government's consideration to announce a package of benefits to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Conversion of Leasehold System to Freehold

15. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed conversion of leasehold land to freehold in many colonies in and around Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and how much area has been covered under the scheme; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that unauthorised constructions have also been regularised in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Orders for conversion of leasehold rights to freehold in respect of plots upto the size of 500 sq. mts. DDA flats and flats built by Group Housing Societies on lands leased by DDA were issued on 11-3-1991. The scope, coverage and detailed modalities for implementing these orders are under consideration of the Government.

Machine stitching of Wheat and Rice Bags

16. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very little progress has been made to introduce Machine stitching of wheat and rice bags;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the exact quantity of Machine stitching done during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to achieve 100 per cent Machine stitching of food-grain bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The FCI/State Agencies are undertaking procurement of wheat and paddy under price support and rice under levy. Although the machine-stitching of bags containing foodgrain procured at mandi/purchase centres figures high on the priority of FCI, in view of vast magnitude of price support operation involving about 8000 purchase centres for procurement of wheat and paddy and 18768 rice mills (as on 1-1-1986) from whom levy rice is collected, as also the practical difficulties faced by the State Governments, the progress of machine-stitching has not been as expected, especially in case of rice. However, attempts are being made to extend machine-stitching and incentives are being given to popularise the same. The current ceiling rate of incentive for double-line machine-stitching is 60 paise per bag for levy rice and 70 paise per bag for wheat, Services of mandi labour contractors/kaccha arthias are also being utilised subject to the prescribed ceiling limit. A statement showing the number of bags machine stitched in different States during the last three years for wheat and rice is attached.

Statement

Number of Bags Machine stitched in different States during the last three years for wheat and rice

(Figures in Lakh Bags)

Name of State	Wheat			Rice		
	Rabi			Kharif		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Prov.)
Punjab	0·40	2·88	7.01	*(i) Levy rice NA	52·82*	23·65*
				(ii) Custom milled rice NA	29·52*	33·38*
Haryana	0·11	0·49	Nil	0·16	2·88	N.A.
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	1.55	N.A.
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0·33	N.A.
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	29·09*	N.A.
Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	0·31	0.43
Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	16·60	N.A.
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	96·53	223·98	N.A.
Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	4·39	N.A.

*Excluding information in respect of Ferozpur, Jullundur, Kapurthala and Sangrur Districts.